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catheter tube to at least partially melt at least one material selected from the group consisting of the polymeric material and the polymeric catheter tube along the bond site and the immediate region thereof; and

A allowing the at least one partially melted material to cool and solidify to form a fusion bond between the polymeric catheter tube and the polymeric material.

27. A process for bonding at least one polymeric material to a polymeric catheter tube comprising the steps of:

A.2 over-lapping an end of the at least one polymeric material with an end of the polymeric catheter tube thereby creating an over-lapped portion;

generating at least one annular beam of electromagnetic energy that is at least partially absorbed by at least one of the polymeric material and the polymeric catheter tube at the selected energy wavelength;

controllably directing at least a portion of the annular beam of energy onto the polymeric material to concentrate the energy in a bond site on the over-lapped portion circumscribing at least a portion of the polymeric catheter tube to at least partially melt at least one material selected from the group consisting of the polymeric material and the polymeric catheter tube along the bond site and the immediate region thereof; and allowing the at least one partially melted polymeric material to cool and solidify to form a fusion bond between the polymeric catheter tube and the polymeric material.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 23, 2002 claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 15, 27-29 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Forman (US 5,501,759). Claims 1, 15, 27-29 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forman (US 5,501,759) in view of Wysocki et al (US 5,339,380). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forman